



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Masahide Shima et al. Art Unit : 1754
Serial No. : 09/654,674 Examiner : C. Nguyen
Filed : September 5, 2000
Title : CERAMIC ARTICLE, CARRIER FOR CATALYST, METHODS FOR PRODUCTION THEREOF, CATALYST FOR PRODUCING ETHYLENE OXIDE USING THE CARRIER, AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING ETHYLENE OXIDE

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FINALITY OF ACTION OF NOVEMBER 3, 2003

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview with Applicants' counsel held on April 2, 2004 to discuss the Advisory Action of March 2, 2004 and the final Office Action of November 3, 2003.

During the interview, Applicants' counsel pointed out that, contrary to the assertion raised in the Advisory Action, the amendments proposed in the response to the final Office Action do not raise new issues for the reasons set forth in the letter faxed to the Examiner before the interview (copy attached). Applicants' counsel further discussed with the Examiner two prior art references cited in the final Office Action, i.e., JP-A-55-145677 and U.S. Patent No. 4,316,965.

At the end of the interview, the Examiner suggested that Applicants file a request for withdrawing the finality of the final Office Action and indicated that she would issue another non-final Office Action upon receipt of the request.

Accordingly, Applicants hereby respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the finality of the final Office Action and issue a new non-final Office Action.

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Enclosed is a \$420 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4-5-04

Y. Rocky Tsao
Y. Rocky Tsao, Ph.D., J.D.
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 34,053

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906